

ATMOSPHERIC FERTILIZATION.

A Gift of the Agricultural Department to the People.

Washington, D. C., April 22.—The American people have become accustomed more or less, to surprising statements emanating from the Department of Agriculture. Organized as a concession to the rural vote and with very little thought as to its possibilities, this department was for many years known as the "cow department" and was the subject of many a paragraph, not always animated by a kindly spirit.

For the last eight years, however, under the direction of a real leader of men, and a positive force in the person of James Wilson, the department has forged ahead until it has taken a front rank in the field of governmental activities.

Not long ago Representative Mann, of Illinois, in remarks on the floor of the House, stated that in his judgment one dollar spent by the Department of Agriculture was the equivalent, in actual returns to the people of fifteen dollars spent in any other line of governmental activities, and the facts bear out the Illinois Congressman's statement. We know, in a vague way, and have known, that the agricultural interests are the bone and sinew of the republic, and all political partisans are wont to appeal, particularly at election time, to the man who is "close to nature" and who lives the "simple life" as the hope of the republic, but concrete facts are necessary to enable us thoroughly to appreciate the conditions.

The Republicans made the air vocal from the Kennebec to the Rio Grande, and from Puget Sound to Palm Beach last fall talking of the prosperity of the last seven years and the enormous balance of trade in favor of this Government. As a matter of fact, were it not for the agricultural products of this country there would have been, every year for the last fifteen years, a balance of trade against this country ranging from forty to seventy-five million dollars a year. In other words, the farmers, with their wheat, their corn, and their dairy products, have not only paid the excess of imports and exports in other lines, amounting in ten years to a half million dollars, but have piled up in the people's coffers a surplus fund of over three hundred millions of dollars in a single decade. There is, therefore, no reason why the Department of Agriculture should not receive, not only attention, but generous treatment, at the hands of Congress.

There is no department of the Government where men of high ability devote more conscientious effort to the service of the people. Secretary Wilson has grouped around him a corps of scientists whose reputation has become world wide. When Argentina desired to start a meteorological bureau, Dr. Willis Moore, of the Department of Agriculture, had to furnish the men. When the new Cuban Republic began work along lines similar to those followed by our Government, they sought, but sought in vain, for some of the scientists of the bureau of soil surveys to examine their own agricultural possibilities. France, Great Britain and other foreign countries have tried to avail themselves of the results of our work, and it is safe to say that to-day no country in the world has as efficient and able a Bureau of Agriculture as our own.

Agriculture, according to Mr. Wilson, is a pretty wide term. It includes a remarkable series of experiments in wireless telegraphy, in the crop and weather bureau service. It includes the treatment of the water of standing lakes and reservoirs with poisonous chemicals to remove algae, parasitic growths and injurious animals, and the work has been successful to a degree that private enterprise and medical science have not dreamed of. Mr. Wilson has carried on a farmers' campaign against the mosquito, as in our boyhood days we fight the crow and woodcock, but with much more scientific methods and correspondingly superior results. He used to hear something about the man who made two blades of grass grow where one had grown before. The department is making two kernels of wheat grow where one has grown before. This means something. The production of a single kernel of wheat the head amounts, according to the statistics, to an increase of more than five million dollars in the value of the wheat crop of this country, and Mr. Wilson's farmers are winning the farmers of Minnesota and Iowa how to do it. We need to know about blight and wonder what it is. Blight is simply a germ disease and they treat it now as if hospitals are treating diphtheria. In fact, those who have for gotten all about it, who

partment of Agriculture being the "cow department" and regard it as it is, one of the highest scientific branches of the Government's work. One of its highest paid clerks ranks as stenographer and typewriter on the rolls, and he receives a salary that would make most men of his profession grow green with envy, but Mr. Stenographer and Typewriter is a university graduate, an expert linguist and translator, and an all round man of the world. But what have farmer Wilson's people to do with such a man, you say? There is hardly a corner of the world which has not been scoured by the scientists of the Department of Agriculture in search of new varieties of forage and food crops which are capable of domestication or of hybridizing with old varieties, and the reports that come from Algeria, Siberia and from the interior of China, and the south of Africa, from the mountains of Peru and the plains of Australia to be used for the benefit of the American farmer, have to be gone over by careful hands. In this way we have gotten our durum wheat, which is revolutionizing farming in the arid regions, prose and emmer, Egyptian rice, and a dozen other exotics which are becoming staples of American farm industry.

But the most important achievement of the scientists of the Department of Agriculture is in discovering a method of obtaining plant food from the air. Benjamin Franklin drew the lightning from the clouds and for a hundred and fifty years we have looked back to him as the father of electrical science. The Department of Agriculture is doing quite as important work by a somewhat similar method, although not quite as spectacular in its manifestations. We have read from time to time lugubrious articles based upon a supposed danger of nitrogen famine. We have been told the nitrate beds of Peru were rapidly becoming exhausted, that the Guano Islands were few in number and small in extent, and that the unavoidable outcome must be famine and world wide ruin because Mother Earth had for untold thousands of years been giving up her store of nitrogen to supply plant life. We knew we were living and breathing in an ocean of nitrogen, but the way to bring the need and the supply together was the problem. Meanwhile the farmers, every fall and spring, have been spending many weary hours of precious time carting to their fields expensive fertilizers to do a work which nature had means of doing far more effectively. Agriculturists knew that alfalfa, clover and cow peas, would renovate wornout land. We knew that white beans would grow on Cape Cod. Gradually we found out, and indeed years ago, that these and other leguminous plants had on their roots nodules or knuckles to which were attached little bacteria which performed a quasi-chemical function and transmitted the nitrogen of the atmosphere into plant food. And we know, too, in a general way, that these bacteria could be cultivated like the antitoxine. Then we learned that if these bacteria existed in the soil in abundance they affixed themselves to the roots of the plants in greater numbers and drew down more of the life-giving nitrogen. With this as a clue, the German Department of Agriculture, several years ago, started a series of experiments in an effort to reproduce the bacteria. They could grow the bacteria and produce the culture, but before they got to the hands of the farmers they had lost their power. Then we discovered that in China and Japan there was soil which contained these germs in abundance, and that they would multiply very rapidly. So we brought over ship loads of the soil from the Orient, but this was too expensive and ineffective. Within the last few years our farmer friends in the department have been making a preparation from which the farmer himself could grow the culture and reproduce the bacteria. And they will send you, upon the properly authenticated request, three little tubes, the contents of which you will mix and put in a pail of warm water, and then sub-divide until you have billions of the nitro-fixing bacteria, as they are called. You then take a watering pot and sprinkle the seeds you want to plant with the solution. This can be done in the winter time or on days when other work does not press. When the seed germinates the bacteria start to grow and develop in countless numbers and the plant draws all its food through these little spores, not downward through the soil, but upward through the air. If it is preferred you can drive a sprinkling cart over the field and treat the soil in the same way, but the seed treatment seems to be the best so far.

Among experiments which were tried to illustrate this principle was one which will appeal to the New Englander. A glass jar of powdered silica or sand, absolutely destitute of soil, was procured, the sand was heated to eliminate any possible soil contained, and was then covered with water. In the sand were planted some white beans which were treated with the culture, and the result was a remarkable growth of vegetation and crop. To-day it has become something more than a laboratory experiment, and enough to fertilize the seed for an acre can be furnished at the cost of one cent. When this was first elaborated to the House committee a wag among the members said that it reminded him of a remark of a Hibernian friend to whom someone predicted something of the same sort and told him the time would come when the farmer would carry the fertilizer for an acre of ground in his vest pocket.

"Yes, be jabbers," said Pat, "an' you'll carry the crop in yiz other vest pocket."

Pat's fears have not been realized. Crops of clover, alfalfa, peas and other plants are grown with the aid of the wizard fertilizer fifteen and even twenty times as great as those grown on adjacent fields untreated.

The discovery is not a cure-all. It will not make every desert blossom like a rose, but it is believed to be the most important agricultural discovery for a generation, and in renewing and restoring wornout lands it will perform a function whose importance cannot be over estimated. In this way New England should be able to begin checking in some degree, at least, the dangerous egress from her borders, and the children of the extreme east should be able to more nearly hold their own with their cousins on the plains.

While under the old system, cropping exhausted the soil, where the inoculated seed is used the soil is enriched by the crop and the bacteria left by the leguminous plants make it possible to raise enormous crops of wheat, potatoes and miscellaneous products in following years; and many a rugged hillside which once supported its large families and sent out the men who have dominated the life and growth of the great West, but is now given over to the encroaching brush may yet be restored to its former fertility.

The next time you look over the Government appropriations just compare the various departments with a few of these facts in mind. For the current year Congress has appropriated a little over three hundred and twenty million dollars for the arts of war, including therein, as they properly should be included, the pension appropriations. In other words, to keep up our military establishment and to build our war ships and train our soldiers, it has cost us a good deal over a million dollars a day for the working days of the whole year. For the same period the Government has appropriated for the Department of Agriculture a round six millions of dollars, or the million dollars a day for the working days of a single week. By and by, the people will understand about this and then there will be something doing.

Webster Ballinger.

SPRING CATARRH.

Changeable Weather Causes Disease. Breathe Hyomei and Cure Catarrh.

The changeable weather of Spring, with its warm days and cold nights, is responsible for a great increase in the number of cases of catarrh. It is now that Hyomei, the only guaranteed treatment for catarrh that cures without stomach dosing, should be used in every home. Hyomei is a scientific method by which pure air impregnated with Nature's own remedies for the cure of catarrh, can be inhaled by every sufferer in his or her home. Breathed through the neat pocket inhaler that comes with every outfit, its healing, volatile, antiseptic fragrance reaches the lungs and air passages as no stomach dosing possibly can do. It gives immediate relief and makes lasting cure.

Proof that the Hyomei treatment will do all that is claimed for it is found in the guarantee under which Evans Pharmacy sell it, an agreement to pay back the price, if the purchaser can say that Hyomei has not given satisfaction. Complete outfit \$1.00; extra bottles 50c.

—When a man's married his poverty begins.

—The joy of living is chiefly avoiding the pain of dying.

—There is something about a rich wife mighty fascinating till you are married to her.

—A man carries on terribly about the coal bills but nobody ever heard him claim the liquor bills are too high.

—It is possible for any man to become a millionaire in this country—without the possible exception of your self.

—It is hard for the look to see why people prefer the lily.

IN A HERONY.

It is Not a Pleasure to Either the Eye, Ear or Nose.

A writer describes as follows the abode of a colony of herons near a large city in this country: "The herony of which I am writing is situated in a piece of swampy woodland not more than 200 yards from a main traveled road. Let one attempt to enter the confines of this city of birds and he will immediately be made aware of the nature of the place. At first he will be greeted by a few croaks from the outlying members of the colony, the suburbanites, as it were, and then, as he inadvertently steps on a dry twig that breaks with a cracking report, such din will suddenly arise as will cause him to think he has entered bedlam. Birds appear by the hundreds where before not one could be seen. The air is full of the rustle and rush of wings, and each bird vies with his fellows in making the most noise until their combined efforts produce a racket that can be likened to nothing I know of and that can easily be heard from a quarter to half a mile away. The voices of the night herons are anything but musical.

"Everywhere are pieces of half digested and decaying fish and the bodies of young birds that have met an untimely end by falling from the nests, and consequently the odor is not what might truthfully be called savory. Altogether it is hardly the place one would choose for an early morning jaunt unless one had a particular object in doing so, especially as there is but little solid ground, the rest being mud, water and decaying vegetation. And yet, despite all these unpleasant features, it is altogether a delightful place to visit for one who is a lover of birds.

"Occasionally a resounding thump coming from some part of the swamp announces the fall of a young one too eager to obtain its portion of food. These falls when the herons are fairly well grown seem to trouble them not at all, even when the drop is fifty or sixty feet. But they must be able to climb again into the trees or provide for themselves upon the ground if they would live, for the old birds appear to be entirely oblivious to the cries of the fallen."

The Shortest Names.

Many years ago there was a shop kept in the Rue de Louvain, in Brussels, by Therese O, and there is a Mme. O living with her two children at Molenbeck, a suburb of the Belgian capital, according to the Buffalo Commercial. In the Rue de l'Angle, in the same commune, lives a Mr. O (with a circumflex accent), who is no relative of Mme. O. In 1866 among the Belgian recruits was a young man named O, who could not write and signed his name with a cross, yet he could so easily have learned to write his own name! In the department of Somme there is a village called Y, in the Zuyder zee there is a bay called Y and Amsterdam has the river Y. In the Chinese province of Honan there is a city called U, and in France there is a river and in Sweden a town rejoicing in the name of A.

Infantry.

Some have supposed that the name infantry was applied to foot soldiers from the fact of the page boy or under attendant in feudal times being unmounted, while his lord rode off to the battle. A far more likely derivation of the term is seen when we remember that the infant is the official term of the heir apparent in Spain, as the dauphin is in France. Infantry, therefore, was originally a particular army of foot soldiers raised by the infant for the purpose of rescuing his father, who had been overpowered in one of the many contests with the Moors in Spain. The name finally passed from the particular to the general use and was adopted by other countries.

Periwak Feathers.

On the apex of the Prince of Wales' crown, which he wears on special occasions, is a curious feather, or, rather, a tuft of periwak feathers, the top of which is adorned with a gold thread. This feather is said to be worth £10,000 and has the distinction of being the only one of its kind in the world. It took twenty years to procure it, and it caused the death of more than a dozen hunters. The reason the pursuit of the periwak is so dangerous is because it inhabits the jungles and other haunts of tigers.

Snakes and Eating.

Snakes in menageries often fast many months. Cases were recorded at the Paris museum of a rattlesnake which refused food twenty-six months and a python which fasted twenty-nine months. But the record belongs to a Japanese python which arrived in Paris in November, 1899. It died in April, 1902, after having refused food for two years, five months and three days. During that time its weight had decreased from seventy-five kilograms to twenty-seven.

CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

—A man's idea of a good summer vacation is where he can wear his old clothes, a woman's where she must wear a lot of new ones.

—A pretty girl is usually more ornamental than useful.

—Successful guessers are applauded by the public as great prophets.

OURS, NOT MINE.

A Simple Plan That Might Prevent Many Home Tragedies.

"It is mine!" "I tell you, you are mistaken; it is mine!"

Divorce court. Which is a terse way of putting the sad history of many a marriage disagreement over the things mine and thine and the domestic misery that follows.

The way to settle such a disagreement is for both parties to say, "It is ours."

Because of the struggle for mine and thine the records of history are rolled in blood, nations have fallen, barriers of hatred have been raised, brother has fought brother. Envy, dissension and division have come because men have contended for that which is not theirs, but "ours."

Organized selfishness in our day has manifested itself in the great corporation spiders that have spread their webs far and wide, controlling the avenues of approach, watching for victims with their many faceted eyes, gathering to themselves what is not theirs, but "ours."

The world is ours. Sky and earth—ours. Sunshine and shade—ours. Flowers and birds—ours. Fruits and fertile fields—ours.

And the Master of us all taught us to pray, "Our Father."

Ladies and gentlemen, everywhere is needed this doctrine of "ours"—in the family, city, state, nation, world.

The solution of all earth's problems is wrapped up in the one saying:

"Everything is ours."—Milwaukee Journal.

Better Blood.

In the home of a New England farmer there are two small bright little fellows, six and seven years old, named Will and Eugene. Like most other lads, both of them dislike work, especially "chores," and when these small services are required each frequently evinces a desire to have the other take the laboring oar. Once the family physician was calling at the house in attendance on the mother. As he was putting on his gloves to go away he ran a professional glance over the two youngsters.

"Mrs. Fuller," he remarked, "the younger of your two boys, Eugene, is more robust than Will. He has greater vitality. His blood is better."

About an hour later, as dusk was falling, the mother said: "Will, you must fill the wood box for morning. Fetch in four armfuls."

"I don't want to!" whined Will. "Make Gene go. His blood's better'n mine."—Youth's Companion.

Human Hair Market.

The human hair industry is a very active one in France, the departments most frequently visited by the hair merchants being those of Corzeze, Creuse, Allier, Cher, Dordogne and Haute Vienne. The average price given for a full, long head of hair is from 8 shillings to 25 shillings for the very best quality and color. The girls of the districts mentioned above, which are exceedingly poor, stipulate that their hair shall not be cut short in front and conceal the shorn appearance at the back by a draped colored handkerchief. The best shades of light and blond hair are obtained from Germany and Switzerland, and for these high prices are paid.—London Mail.

Britishers Do Not Flatter.

A Boston lady who had been received with much favor by the Folklore society in London rather questioned the sincerity of her warm reception and said she supposed, like the French people, the English flatter. "Not at all," was the protest of a London friend. "You need not consider it possible for an English person to flatter." And then she gave an instance. Some one looking at a painting said to the artist whose picture it was, "It isn't so bad, you know." "Now don't be fulsome," was the reply.—Boston Herald.

Her Money's Worth.

During her sojourn at a hotel a lady broke an article belonging to a toilet china set. On leaving the house she was charged with the entire set. As remonstrance was unavailing, she paid the bill and, pleading the excuse of having forgotten something, returned to the room and broke each and every article of the set for which she had paid. And some people say women are not clever!

An Inquisitive Miss.

Her nurse had fallen asleep, and a four-year-old girl toddled to the pulpit steps in a church and temporarily stopped the sermon by asking the clergyman: "Please, man, why do you get up there? Why don't you come down?" When a church warden gently led her back to her seat amid the tittering of the congregation she repeated her question, adding, "Can he see better?"

—A homely rich girl can get married to a poor man as quick as a pretty girl to a rich man.

—The more frills a woman has on her clothes the more she puts on her company manners.

—College education is such a failure for some boys that they don't even know anything about athletics when they come out.

—An old bachelor says love is more like a pestilence than a disease.

Rydale's Stomach Tablets.

INDIGESTION

Causes belching, gas, or wind in the stomach, heartburn, sour stomach, etc.

DYSPEPSIA

Causes Cramps and pain in the stomach, sick stomach, etc.

Rydale's Stomach Tablets Cure Rydale's Stomach Tablets digest all kinds of food and prevent fermentation, and the formation of gas and acid in the stomach. They never fail to cure indigestion. They stimulate, tone the digestive organs, and cure dyspepsia in its worst forms.

Indigestion and Dyspepsia.

Mr. R. E. Jones, buyer for Parker & Bridget, whose large department stores are located at 9th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C., writes us, under date of April 18th, 1901, as follows: "I have used Rydale's Stomach Tablets for several years, and I can say that they are the best I have ever used. I have used two boxes of these tablets and have gained 20 pounds and never felt better in my life. Rydale's Stomach Tablets cured me and I recommend them most heartily to sufferers from nervous indigestion and a general run down condition of the system. Rydale's Stomach Tablets are manufactured and guaranteed by the

RADICAL REMEDY COMPANY, Hickory, N.C.

FOR SALE BY EVANS PHARMACY.

Wanted to Buy.

Good, Flat Land, in good state of cultivation and well improved.

Wanted to Sell.

132 acres, Hall Township—40 acres in bottom lands that will yield 1000 bushels corn. Fair improvement.

148 acres, Savannah Township, known as Evergreen place. Well improved, good orchard.

84 acres, Hopewell Township. Tenant house, barn, &c. 45 acres in cultivation, balance woods and old fields.

152 acres, Rock Mills Township. Price \$1200.

961 acres, Broadway Township. Well improved. Price \$2500

874 acres, Varennes Township—improved.

200 acres, Fork Township.

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Oldest, Biggest, Cheapest, Best!

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IN ANDERSON for more than forty years. During all that time competitors have come and gone, but we have remained right here. We have always sold Cheaper than any others, and during those long years we have not had one dissatisfied customer. Mistakes will sometimes occur, and if at any time we find that a customer was dissatisfied we did not rest until we had made him satisfied. This policy, rigidly adhered to, has made us friends, true and lasting, and we can say with pride, but without boasting, that we have the confidence of the people of this section. We have a larger Stock of Goods than season than we have ever had, and we pledge you our word that we have never sold Furniture at as close a margin of profit as we are doing now. This is proven by the fact that we are selling Furniture not only all over Anderson County but in every Town in the Piedmont section. Come and see us. Your parents saved money by buying from us, and you and your children can save money by buying here too. We carry EVERYTHING in the Furniture line.

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